

melting of the ice. The soil has a tendency to become foul with weeds, and most farmers find it best to fallow the land every third year. With this system of two years wheat and one year fallow, it is possible to go on growing wheat for a very long time without manure. Frequently the seed for the following year's crop is sown upon the stubble without ploughing, and simply harrowed in. The produce in some specially fertile spots is phenomenal, but the average is between 20 and 30 bushels per acre. Large crops of oats, barley and roots can also be produced on the prairies. As long as wheat pays, it is less trouble to cultivate it alone. The Manitoban farmer considers that wheat growing pays if he can obtain 50 cents (about 2s.) per bushel. When the price falls to 40 cents or less, as at present, he grumbles very much. The carriage and expenses of conveying wheat from say Brandon to Liverpool, via the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Great Lakes, and New York, is about 43 cents, bringing up the price at Liverpool to 83 cents or 3s. 5d. per bushel. As soon as the wheat is thrashed, it is sent by the farmer or grain merchant to be stored in an elevator until the market is considered favourable for selling. These elevators are huge unsightly erections, 300 to 400 feet long, and 50 or 60 feet high, owned by the railway or other company. Like most things on the other side of the Atlantic, buildings are constructed upon utilitarian rather than artistic principles. These grain stores receive their name from the grain being carried up out of the railway cars on ground floor to the top by revolving elevators. There it is weighed and sent into bins 50 feet deep. When removed it is again elevated to the top and reweighed, then sent down in wide iron spouts projecting over the cars or the hold of the steamers. In this way a large steamer can be loaded in a few hours.

The greater part of Manitoba has been taken up by settlers, but free grants of land can easily be obtained in the provinces of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, where the soil is well adapted for growing wheat and for mixed farming generally. The elevation of the prairie slightly increases towards the Rocky Mountains, and the branch of agriculture suited for this district is grazing. For hundreds of miles around the town of Calgary, the country is occupied by horse and cattle ranches. The grass has a dried up and wiry appearance, and might be looked upon by an old country farmer as poor grazing. On closer examination of the numerous herds of cattle, he would become convinced that there is something peculiarly nutritious about these pastures which can bring cattle up to such high condition without any other feeding. The breeds of cattle in Canada are kept up to a high standard by the use of well-bred short-horn, Hereford, Ayrshire, and other bulls.